

Global Perspectives on the Ergonomics of Informal Work

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The ILO estimates that nearly two billion people, or about 61 per cent of the world's employed population, make their living in the informal economy (ILO, 2018). LMICs and emerging countries employ 93% of the world's informal worker population. Informal work is characterised by unstructured and unregulated work conditions, without contractual arrangements with formal guarantees, and lacking social and safety protection, decent working conditions and worker rights. This round table discussion serves as a forum for highlighting the unique contextual factors and occupational health effects, including work-related MSDs related to informal work.

About Our Speakers:

1. Clive D'Souza

Clive D'Souza, PhD, is a human factors engineer and researcher in the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology at the University of Pittsburgh, with secondary appointments in the Departments of Industrial Engineering and Ophthalmology. D'Souza has a PhD in industrial engineering and an MS in mechanical engineering from the University at Buffalo, SUNY. His research focuses on human performance measurement, wearable sensing technologies, human-system integration related to disability and ageing, accessible/inclusive transportation design and occupational health and safety.

2. Acran Salmen-Navarro

Dr. Salmen-Navarro is a Physician trained in Occupational Medicine in Venezuela and with a degree in Ergonomics and Biomechanics from NYU. He has been affiliated to the NYU Grossman School of Medicine since 2016 working in Ergonomics and Occupational Health in the NYU / Bellevue Occupational Environmental Medicine clinic and more recently, finishing a Population Health postdoctoral scholar program in Healthcare Delivery, Implementation and Dissemination Science.

Since the beginning of his career, he has focused on work as a social determinant of health by promoting occupational health to vulnerable working populations (e.g. migrant workers, informal workers with multiple interventions around the world, especially in Latin America and more recently here in New York City among the NYC Health and Hospital patient

population). His career as a practitioner and research has granted him national recognition by being appointed as a council member for the CDC|NIOSH National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Musculoskeletal Health Council that is setting the NIOSH and NIH occupational musculoskeletal research agenda for the next decade. Internationally, he is part of the Technical Committee (TC) for musculoskeletal disorders and the newly formed TC for informal work of the International Ergonomics Association (IEA) as well as the global lead for the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) in the topic of Occupational Health for migrant workers within the working group for the future of decent work.

3. Dr. Mohammad Muzammil

Dr. Mohammad Muzammil is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and also Head of the Ergonomics Research Division at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India. He self supplicated his PhD from AMU Aligarh. He is a member of the informal working Technical Committee (TC) of the International Ergonomics Association (IEA). He has been providing solutions to various problems that manual workers face from the beginning of his professional career. His research interest is hand tool design, human response to vibration and control, HCI, and human cognitive performance. He has published around a hundred articles in various national and international journals and conferences. Some of the journals in which his articles have been published are Quality Engineering, Theoretical Issues in Ergonomics Sciences, Occupational Ergonomics, Occupational Safety and Ergonomics Magazine, Work and Low Frequency Noise Magazine, Vibration and Active Control, etc.